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# United States Senate

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December 21, 2015

Thomas Wright  
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Dear Thomas,

Greetings from the United States Senate! I am writing you today with good news about the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company (CFAC) site.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced it reached an agreement with Glencore, the owner of CFAC, to conduct a comprehensive investigation of contamination at the site. This is an important step toward revitalizing the economy and protecting public health in the Flathead Valley.

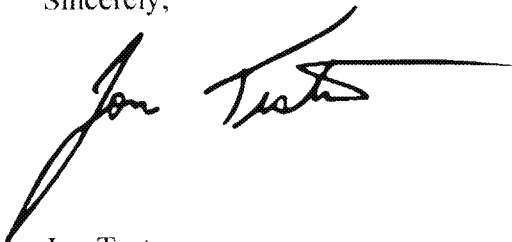
Under the legally binding agreement, Glencore will be responsible for investigating contamination at the site, while the EPA provides oversight. In March, a preliminary site analysis by the EPA and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality confirmed the presence of contaminants in the ground and surface water. Once a more comprehensive investigation is complete, the EPA and Glencore can begin discussing science-based options for remediating and restoring the area.

Since January I have been calling on the EPA to designate CFAC as a superfund site. Without the threat of a superfund listing, I firmly believe that Glencore would have never come back to the negotiating table, and never would have recognized their responsibility to the people of Columbia Falls. As the site assessment process moves forward, I will continue to hold Glencore and the EPA accountable for ensuring this site is cleaned up and restored.

A key part of that is making sure residents, business owners, local officials, former CFAC workers, and other folks on the ground have their say in the process. If you have additional questions about the agreement, I encourage you to attend a community meeting with EPA officials in the Columbia Falls High School cafeteria from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Thursday, January 21.

I am always happy to hear your thoughts on this issue. It is an honor and privilege to serve you.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester  
United States Senator

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